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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Guyana*: draft resolution

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 53/198 of 15 December 1998 regarding the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and all of its other resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

Recalling also the declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[1]

Expressing its deep concern that efforts to reduce global poverty, in particular in the developing countries, have been severely constrained by the slowdown in the global economy, negative effects of globalization, financial crises and declining commodity prices,

Expressing further deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected,

Expressing concern about the increasing economic disparities within and among countries and its negative impact on the national and international efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing that the combined effects of natural disasters, conflicts, entrenched poverty, diseases, especially the malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.
[1] A/54/316.

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immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic, and lack of proper education affect the economic prospects of and efforts to eradicate poverty in the most severely affected countries, especially in Africa,

Recognizing also that globalization poses severe challenges and risks, particularly for developing countries, at a time when they are intensifying their efforts towards achieving sustained economic growth and directing their national policies towards realizing the objective of eradicating poverty,

Recognizing further that, while it is the responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries in eradicating poverty,

Emphasizing the need to further strengthen the efforts of international organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system within their respective mandates to implement measures and actions to eradicate poverty as well as those of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

Expressing its appreciation to the developed countries that have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance,

Noting with appreciation the Cologne Initiative and the decision taken by the Bretton Woods institutions to make poverty eradication the priority in their programmes and policy advice, and the enhancement introduced to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative with a view to achieving faster, deeper and broader debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries,

1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;

2. *Reiterates also* the call for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and, in this context, calls for specific action aimed at achieving tangible results annually with a view to realizing the objectives of the Decade as soon as possible;

3. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes and promotes equitable income distribution for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate, as they deem appropriate, the recommendations made by the Secretary-General[1] for action and initiatives for poverty eradication towards the new millennium in designing and implementing their national poverty alleviation strategies and exploring policies best suited to their national circumstances with a view to maximizing the effect of poverty reduction and eradication;

5. *Urges* strengthened international efforts to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment to facilitate their integration into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources, and initiating innovative debt-relief mechanisms for the developing countries, so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization and cope with its negative effects as well as avoid marginalization;

6. *Calls upon* all countries to formulate and implement national strategies and programmes, including setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction;

7. *Reaffirms* that mainstreaming a gender perspective in an active and visible manner into all policies and programmes aimed at poverty eradication at both the national and international levels is key to a successful poverty eradication strategy;

8. *Calls upon* the developing countries to fulfil the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross domestic product for the least developed countries;

9. *Also calls upon* the developing countries to facilitate the transfer of technology and access to knowledge on preferential and concessional terms in order to enable the developing countries to benefit from the phenomenon of globalization, which is influenced in large measure by technology;

10. *Encourages* Governments to adopt policies promoting the effective use and development of microcredit, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional organizations to support and further develop other microfinance instruments;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to give priority to poverty eradication and to enhance coordination in this regard, and encourages those agencies of the United Nations system as well as other partners in development to continue to support Member States through *inter alia*, advocacy actions to generate political support within the donor countries, for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

12. *Calls upon* the developed countries that have not done so to provide the required financing for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in order to contribute to the achievement of poverty reduction in a sustainable manner in these countries;

13. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations to examine ways and means of assisting the growing number of middle-income developing countries facing mounting poverty levels resulting from their current difficulties in servicing their external debt and hampering their efforts to effectively combat poverty;

14. *Decides* to promote the examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives in the context of the development concerns of developing countries into ongoing discussions on the international financial development architecture;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including a thorough examination of the impact of globalization and interdependence on poverty eradication, recommendations for possible actions and initiatives for poverty eradication in the process of globalization, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".